

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 14-0970V

Filed: October 2, 2015

UNPUBLISHED

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BETTY WEST,

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Petitioner,

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v.

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

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Respondent.

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Amber Diane Wilson, Maglio Christopher & Toale, PA, Washington, DC, for petitioner.  
Christine Mary Becer, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

### **DECISION ON ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS<sup>1</sup>**

**Dorsey**, Chief Special Master:

On October 9, 2014, Betty West ("petitioner") filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, et seq.,<sup>2</sup> [the "Vaccine Act"]. Petitioner alleged that she suffered from Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) as a result of an influenza (flu) vaccine she received on October 5, 2013. Petition at 1, 13-14. On July 23, 2015, the undersigned issued a decision awarding compensation to petitioner based on the parties' stipulation.

On October 2, 2015, the parties filed a Stipulation of Fact Concerning Attorneys' Fees and Costs. According to the stipulation, the parties stipulate to an award to petitioner of attorneys' fees and costs in the amount of \$13,969.80. In accordance with

<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioners have 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all "§" references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

General Order #9, petitioner's counsel represents that petitioner incurred no out-of-pocket expenses.

The Vaccine Act permits an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. 42 U.S.C. § 300 aa-15(e). Based on the reasonableness of petitioner's request and the lack of any objection by respondent, the undersigned grants the request for approval and payment of attorneys' fees and costs.

**Accordingly, the undersigned awards the total of \$13,969.80,<sup>3</sup> as a lump sum in the form of a check jointly payable to petitioner and petitioner's counsel, Amber Wilson of the law firm of Maglio Christopher & Toale, PA.**

The clerk of the court shall enter judgment in accordance herewith.<sup>4</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Nora Beth Dorsey**  
Nora Beth Dorsey  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> This amount is intended to cover all legal expenses incurred in this matter. This award encompasses all charges by the attorney against a client, "advanced costs" as well as fees for legal services rendered. Furthermore, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e)(3) prevents an attorney from charging or collecting fees (including costs) that would be in addition to the amount awarded herein. See *generally Beck v. Sec'y, HHS*, 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir.1991).

<sup>4</sup> Entry of judgment can be expedited by each party's filing of a notice renouncing the right to seek review. See Vaccine Rule 11(a).